

Brookshire, Ethel Elizabeth Brown
interviewed by Connie Terhune on March 5, 1999
at the Pleasant Bay Nursing Home, Brewster, MA

Eastham Historical Society- Oral Histories
1 audiocassette (ca. 90 min) + transcript

Growing up in Eastham 1905-1920s
Memories of attack on Pearl Harbor 1941
Living in Orleans during WW II

Eastham Historical Society Oral History Tape Interview of ETHEL ELIZABETH BROWN BROOKSHIRE done on March 5, 1999 at the Pleasant Bay Nursing Home in Brewster, Massachusetts. Interviewer is Connie Terhune.
E: is Mrs Brookshire; C: is Connie Terhune.

C: We can just start; probably the best way is just to tell me the obvious: you can tell me when and where you were born in Eastham; when and what street...

E: I was born in Eastham on... do you know where the Cummingses live?

C: Yes, I think so, and the Sparrows, on Nauset Road.

E: Here's Nauset Rd. (she shows me with her hands) go, and it goes around..

C: Mildred Cummings?

E: Yes!

C: Yeah, okay...

E: It was that house. That was our home.

C: Mildred Cummings' house.

E: That was my greatgrandmother's home.

C: Okay.

E: Yes, there were three of us born there.

C: Oh, okay, I know exactly. And you were born when?

E: I was born November 18th, 1905.

C: Okay, and I know your father's name was Arthur Brown.

E: Arthur Edward.

C: Arthur Edward. And can you tell me anything about his family or what he did for an occupation?

E: Well, he was... he was brought up by his grandmother in Boston, but she was a Cape native. Her name was Rebecca Freeman Mayo (note, Rebecca Freeman Mayo Manuel died 05-07-03 at age 81 years and 1 month) and she was born and brought up in Eastham. And she married Martin Manuel and they lived in Boston I guess all their life after they were married. And I think he was, I've been told he was, a book publisher. That's all I know. But he originated from Provincetown.

C: You said Martin Manuel?

E: Martin Manuel.

C: And then when did your father come back to Eastham to live?

E: My father came back to Eastham right after he and my mother were married.

C: And when were they married?

E: That picture up there with the hat; on the back of the picture is written my mother's name, in my mother's handwriting. She was 17 years old; it was 1897. (note, photo says "aged 17, Arlington Heights, 1897".)

C: Oh...

E: She loved hats; all her life she loved hats! That was quite a hat!

C: And what about your mother's family?

E: Well, my mother's family was from New Hampshire. Grandma Sargent, my greatgrandmother Sargent (note, Adaline W. Sargent died in Eastham 12-12-1918 from the influenza epidemic aged 91 years, 9 months.), was first cousin to Mary Baker Eddy. Do You know who she was?

C: Oh, sure.

E: And she married Sargent; his name was Sargent. And he was President Pierce's... the only president that was elected from New Hampshire... He was his tailor.

C: Oh, that's fascinating.

E: And then he gave him a commission in the Army, which was a terrible

thing because he went out to fight the Indians and his health was broken. up and he died young.

C: And this would have been your greatgrandfather?

E: Greatgrandfather Sargent. And they had something to do with the mills in Lowell (MA). Uh, whether they had one or not I don't know. But so many people then, they owned big mills.

C: Do you think your parents met then in Boston?

E: (Great)grandmother Sargent, after her husband died, after he'd been out fighting Indians and all, she came into Boston. She was a seamstress. Beautiful seamstress. She even made beautiful underwear (Pause, there is some background noise)... we made our doll clothes out of that. I gave it to... And after her husband died she sent her daughter (my grandmother) out to Chicago. Her brother was a merchant out there; he was quite up there in business. And he brought the daughter up. And then she came on to Boston to visit her mother and she met my grandfather and they were married. His name was Seaver, Charles Seaver. And I know very little about the Seaver family. I wish I knew more. But the Seaver family were the ones who were supposed to have come originally from Sweden.

C: So then your mother and father met in Boston, and you said your mother was 17 when they married.

E: She must have been 19.

C: 19.

E: And right after that they came back to the Cape.

C: And what did your father do?

E: Well, he had businesses in Boston, pretty good express business. But his grandmother said, "If I go back to the Cape, I won't go back without you." So, he came back to the Cape with her. And he knew nothing about Cape Codders! I think he started to raise chickens. Well, that didn't pan out. Now, what else was he into? Oh, he bought a boat and he didn't know how to fish. Then he started... I know at one time he drove the school bus with horses. And my sister (Note, Rebecca Clark Brown Howes, born 05-31-08 died 1998) before she died, uh she told about how she used to ride around with her father in what we called the "barge"... to pick up the children, with two horses. And, I don't remember, but she did. And then he gradually got into carpentry work. The last years of his life, he was a carpenter.

C: And what do you remember about your house on Nauset Rd. when you were real small; do you remember what you heated it with or what you used for refrigeration or anything like that?

E: No refrigeration.

C: None?

E: And, gradually the ice man came. And then gradually we got electric.

C: Do you remember when it was that you got electricity?

E: Uh, I know I went away to study nursing at about 18.

C: Oh, you went to study nursing?

E: And I think it was about 2-3 years after that that electricity came in. Because they had no electric lights.

C: Do you remember the first time you saw a telephone?

E: Oh, my goodness, must have been '27; I would say '27 but that may be a bad guess.

C: Now, you said something about your father's having chickens. Did you attempt to grow much in your garden and can and things like that?

E: Oh, yes, yes...

C: And your mother had learned to be a good seamstress as well?

E: Oh, yes.

C: So, did she make your clothes?

E: My mother knew how to do everything.

C: So did she make your clothes?

C: Did you learn to sew?
 C: Winter coats and everything.
 C: Did you ever remember buying much ready-made stuff?
 E: Not a great deal... shoes.
 C: Did you have special clothes for church?
 E: Oh, yes.
 C: Do you remember what you used for play clothes, or did you not really have...
 E: When we came home from school, we changed our clothes.
 C: When you went to school, were you going down to what is now the little schoolhouse?
 E: Yes.
 So you could walk to school then easily. Do you remember...
 E: There were three schools when I was tiny and I remember my older sister going to the Town Hall, what was the Town Hall...
 C: Right, the one that's across the street from the Visitor Center (Today)
 E: I think that's where she went to school.
 C: Do you remember any of your teachers?
 E: Oh, Miss Keith...
 C: I was going to say, that when I look up in the Town Reports... Florence Keith taught for years and years. So you had Miss Keith?
 E: Otto Nickerson...
 C: Do you remember Jennie Smith at all, does that name...
 E: Oh yes, Jennie Smith Sparrow... Yes, Jennie Smith.
 C: But you do remember Florence Keith, she was there for a long time?
 E: Oh yes, she taught grandchildren and greatgrandchildren.
 C: So, when you graduated then from eighth grade, you went to Orleans?
 E: To High School.
 C: And how long were you there?
 E: I don't remember because I went with friends of my mother's to Watertown... do you know where Watertown is?
 C: Sure.
 E: And stayed with them as a mother's helper you might say, and finished high school there.
 C: Oh, you did, okay...
 E: And then I went into nursing.
 C: And you became an RN?
 E: Yes.
 C: And how long were you a nurse?
 E: Oh my goodness... all of my married life I never worked. When my husband died, I said that's the time to get the uniform out. I was 53.
 C: So you went back to it... So, when you were a child... You've told me a little bit about your remembering school clothes, etc.. What do you remember about the school itself? Now, did you go home for lunch?
 Or did you pack a bag lunch?
 E: Mostly I went home for lunch.
 C: Do you remember anything about the school. I'm sure you had outhouses back then. I'm sure you didn't have indoor plumbing.
 E: Oh yes, always.
 C: And you were taught with several other grades at one point I understand
 E: Oh yes. I think Florence Keith had 1st, 2nd, and 3rd; Jennie Sparrow, Jennie Smith had 4, 5, and 6th, and Otto Nickerson had 7th and 8th.

 C: Yes, and he was principal for a long time as I understand it. Was it a big deal going to the High School? Did it seem like a big deal going to Orleans?

C: And how'd you get to school in Orleans?
E: A van, a motor bus. They didn't go by horse.
C: And did you have any friends that were lifelong, that you made in Elementary School... that you stayed in touch with right...
E: Oh yes, still have. In fact I lost one here a couple of weeks ago. She was over at Brewster Manor and I had been talking with her every day, conversing and we, uh... I said, "Rowena; I'm coming over to see you some day". I said that we had a wheel chair, one that'll fold up and go into the car. My daughter-in-law said she'd take me over some day. We picked up the paper and it said she'd died."
C: And her name was Rowena?
E: Rowena Pierce. And she lived in Eastham. And then, Lucy Hopkins is over there. She was a school mate. Her name was Knowles.
C: Was she in Orleans, Lucy Hopkins. Or was she in Eastham?
E: She lived in Orleans but she was brought up in Eastham.
C: Right. (Background noises....) Do you remember anything that you especially liked to do in the winter? Did you go skating at all or was that not common?
E: Skating, coasting. You don't know where the old Sparrow house was? in Eastham? It's gone now...
C: I'm not sure; the only one I'm real familiar with now is Don Sparrow's current house.
E: Yes, well, this is where he was brought up. In back of it is a pond and we'd go down there and skate.
C: Do you remember having a lot of snow as a child?
E: Yes, we did. Seems to me we had an awful lot.
C: Do you remember any really bad, bad storms?
E: Yes, we used to coast a lot.
C: So it was common to go skating.
E: Oh yes.
C: And did anyone in town have a sleigh? Or anything like that or was that unusual?
E: I don't remember that. I don't remember... must have...
C: Do you remember if the Town made... when it was a holiday like Halloween or Christmas or Thanksgiving... did the Town do anything for the children? Did they have any special events?
E: I don't remember if they ever did.
C: Did you do anything special at school?
E: They used to have a gathering, they called it "get togethers", at the Town Hall. And I remember my two cousins and myself, who lived close to Nauset Rd...
C: And what cousins would this have been?
E: Mayo... And we were going over to Town Hall to whatever was going on. We went; it was snowing, snowing hard; they had an aunt who lived right across from the Windmill. And when everything was over, it was snowing so hard we decided we'd better not go home, so we went down to Auntie Ryder's, they called it, and we stayed all night. But there were no telephones. Our families didn't know where we were.
C: They must have had a fit. They had you buried in some snow pile...
E: I'm sure they knew pretty much. I remember that especially.
C: Did they have much for, say teenagers? Did they have many dances or anything you could get to?
E: Oh yes.
C: Now, would those be held in Orleans?
E: There used to be dances all summer at the Town Hall and of course in Orleans at school...

C: Did you do much through Church?
 E: I went to Sunday School and Church all my life.
 C: And what church did you go to?
 E: Methodist. Of course that's burned now, the old Methodist Church. Oh, yes.
 C: So you were always a Methodist. Do you remember anything like... was there any kind of a movie theatre at all in the area?
 E: In Orleans. Very rarely did we ever get there.
 C: Did they have any bowling at all in Orleans when you were a child?
 E: Not that... I don't remember any.
 C: I've heard reference to one that no longer exists and I haven't been able to track that down.
 E: I doubt it.
 C: How about in the summer. Did you for instance go to the Barnstable Fair or was that too far?
 E: Well... I don't think we ever did go til we were grown.
 C: Did you go fishing at all or was that considered more of an occupation than a fun time?
 E: The boys did. I know we would go to the beach, to the ocean. All we ki around there. There was no lifeguard there. The station was there. But whether they watched us or not I don't know. We'd go down there and swim and stay half the day. How did our parents know what had happened to us? At the ocean... And we were out there swimming.
 C: Did you have one of those bathing costumes like you see?
 E: No.
 C: Nothing fancy.
 E: Oh no.
 C: Do you remember when they moved Nauset Light? Do you have any memory of that?
 E: No.
 C: 1923? So that didn't make any...
 E: I was pretty much away at that time.
 C: So that was when you were up in Watertown?
 E: Yes.
 C: Do you remember as a child how many tourists came to Town? Or do you remember any of the summer families?
 E: Oh yes, there'd been a lot of tourists.
 C: Did you family have any... Oh, your family lived so close to where the Richardson property is... Do you remember any of the families that came for the summer?
 E: Well, my mother used to cook for the Richardson boys. I think they were doctors, once in a while when they came down. Right back of us on Nauset Rd was Jaques, that house; they came for weekends.
 C: Didn't he have something to do with the golf course that was built there?
 E: Oh, that was Shaw on Cedar Bank. The only golf course Eastham ever had.
 C: Did you know any of the people at all or was it just that you knew who they were?
 E: We just knew who they were.
 C: So you didn't have a lot of contact with tourists?
 E: No.
 C: There weren't that many then do you think?
 E: Oh yes (there were a lot).
 C: There were a lot of people. Were there many cottages or were they mor summer homes?
 E: I think there were cottages.

E: Yes, I do. I don't know if it was the first time I ever saw an automobile, but the first car I ever rode in was Donald Sparrow's father's car. He bought... it was probably a Model T with no top or anything and he's out there on Nauset Rd inviting we kids to go riding. We thought that was something.

C: Oh, that must have been exciting.

E: It was. I remember saying, "Oh, I can't go. I have my little brother Jim". He says, "Bring him along. Bring him along". So we all went riding. I've so often wanted to tell Donald the first car I ever rode in was his father's car.

C: I'll tell him. I see him often in the library. I'll tell him. He'll get a kick out of that. The roads must have been in funny shape then.

E: They were paved then.

C: They were paved?

E: But in the very beginning they were not paved.

C: And when they first paved them, didn't they initially used to oil the roads to keep them...

E: I don't... I know my little brother got out one morning in his nightgown and got all covered in tar.

C: Or that might have been from the oil. Do you remember the first time you heard a radio in Eastham; did you have a chrystal radio at home?

E: I think I brought the (first) radio home to them.

C: Oh, so when you came from Watertown...

E: Well, it was after I graduated. Of course there were radios around, but they didn't have one.

C: And do you remember any of the... I know that Eastham had a very small informal "airport", like a landing field. Do you remember seeing any airplanes? Or seeing them overhead?

E: I don't remember that at all. Orleans did, but I don't remember Eastham.

C: Eastham had one up off Massasoit Rd. There's a street now called "Runway Lane" and it gets its name from that, but it wasn't as big as the one in Orleans. The one in Orleans was there for quite some time.

E: I know; my son took flying lessons in Orleans.

C: And do you remember the train?

E: Trains? Oh my yes!. We'd all get together in the evening and walk over to see the train come in and wait for the mail to be sorted. That was a big thing, a big evening. Of course that was more or less in the summer.

C: How often did you get mail delivery? You had to go to the Post Office to get your mail?

E: Yes.

C: How often...was it every day that something would come through or not?

E: Yes, I think it came through every day on the train.

C: But that was still very exciting to come see it?

E: At one time, we had most everything delivered to the house: groceries, and papers, and a man selling shoes. Sam Brackett used to deliver groceries.

C: Did you very often go to his store?

E: I don't think I was ever in his store to buy anything with my parents. My father used to go down there.

C: So he delivered to you. That's mainly your memory of him as he came to your house.

E: Oh yes.

C: Did they live over the store do you know?

E: I don't think so.

C: They didn't... so the building was all a store. And that's where your granddaughter lives now?

E: Yes, she's living there. I Think they started their house...

C: So a lot of people then would come around and either bring groceries or be peddlers almost, like you say, selling shoes...

E: They would come around one day and take an order, and the next two-three days after that, they'd deliver.

C: Do you ever remember going to Orleans to go shopping, or you just didn't do...

E: Oh, yes. My father used to go; he'd go in the summer. Later on, he did have a car. My brother, my older brother, went away. He graduated from the Maritime Academy. And, he was Captain of his ship and he bought my father a car.

C: But shopping when you were a child wasn't like it is now when people go all the time.

E: Sometimes we'd go up on the train to Orleans and shop around. I'd go mostly with my mother and then we'd take the train home.

C: Would it stop right in the center of Orleans?

E: Oh yes. Right there by Snow's. Just about where the Snow's store is.

C: I was going to say by Mid-Cape... Snow's. So you must remember the old Snow's.

E: Oh yes.

C: I even remember the old snow's.

E: A lot of people were very put out because they changed that.

C: Do you remember going up to Provincetown at all on the train?

E: Yes, once or twice. I don't know how many times I did. We'd walk around... Then there were boats, ships going back and forth. Passenger... what do you call them?

C: Like a "ferry"?

E: From Boston to Provincetown... from Provincetown to Boston?

C: Like a "ferry"?

E: It was about a three hour trip.

C: Still is!

E: Yes.

C: Yes, the ferry that crosses between Provincetown and Boston now is a three hour trip, still.

E: Yes.

C: Were there any other towns that you visited very often on the Cape or not really?

E: Not... well, in Brewster, my aunt lived in Brewster and we'd go on the train. East Brewster, we'd get off in East Brewster and walk down and stay perhaps a couple nights and then go home.

C: Now, for a trip like that, your father would take you or could you go on the train and walk the rest of the way (alone)?

E: No, when we were old enough, we could go by ourselves.

C: Did you read the newspapers much growing up?

E: Always had a paper. My father was death on that we always had a paper.

C: So you were aware of what was going on in the world?

E: They delivered the papers, oh yes...

C: Do you remember... Now my father has early fairly vivid memories of when he heard about the Titanic for instance, going down. So that must be a memory for you?

E: I can't think I remember too much about that.

C: Do you think there just wasn't a lot of publicity here?

E: Must be.

C: Where you were (living) 'cause he was a lot closer to New York.

E: What year was that?

C: 1912... April 15, 1912.

E: I was still in Eastham.

C: Do you remember much about World War I?
E: Oh yes, we wrote letters to the boys.
C: Do you remember anybody from Eastham that went to fight?
E: Yes. Ralph Chase, Henry Clark, and heavens... I don't know.
C: Do you remember toward the end of World War I when the 'flu epidemic hit? Do you remember the schools were closed for a while?
E: My greatgrandmother died then; she was living with us. (Note: Adaline W. Sargent died 12-12-1918 aged 91 years and 9 months).
C: And she died during the "flu epidemic"?
E: Yes.
C: So you have definite memories of that.
E: Yes.
C: Do you remember much about Prohibition. Do you remember some of the people sneaking in liquor?
E: Oh yes. My brother, my youngest brother was a Coast Guard man and of course he used to be out chasing the liquor boys.
C: So he had stories of the rum runners and things.
E: I don't remember too much about it.
C: But you do remember hearing about it some.
E: Yes.
C: Now, you got married in what year?
E: 1927.
C: So that was well before the Depression... a couple of years before?
E: It was starting.
C: So how did you meet your husband?
E: I graduated in 1927.
C: From nursing school?
E: From nursing school. And soon after that there was very little work for nurses there. So I don't know but what I got married so I'd have something to eat. (laughter). No, I met my husband... My oldest sister was living in Cambridge and married. And he was a friend of my sister's husband. And I was still in training, in Boston then, at the Dispensary, and went out to visit them and he was there. And, time for me to go 'cause we weren't allowed to stay out too late, not past curfew. So he said, "Guess I'll see you home". He was seeing me home forever after that. (laughter)
C: So you liked him right away?
E: I guess so! (laughter).
C: How long did you know him before you got married?
E: Not long, not long. Maybe five months.
C: And you got married in Eastham?
E: We eloped!
C: You eloped?!
E: That was Depression days.
C: Did your family like him?
E: Yes, they liked him, but...
C: But you just didn't want a big wedding?
E: It just wasn't quite the thing for me to do, but I did (elope).
C: Boy, that's exciting... you eloped!
E: Yeah.
C: And then where did you live?
E: Oh, we lived everywhere 'cause he was a military man.
C: Career military?
E: Career. When we were first married, we lived in New Jersey. My daughter was born there. Then we lived in Virginia. Then we lived in Newport. Then we went to San Diego, which I loved. Then we went to Hawaii.
C: Oh, so you were in Hawaii when Pearl Harbor...?
E: Yes.
C: Oh, you must have; that must have been a shock.

E: Yes.

C: Where were you physically when the planes were bombing?

E: Having breakfast, and we kept hearing bombs. My husband thought were out practicing. He kept going to the door. And then we turned radio. And it said, "Ladies and gentlemen, the Islands are under attack stay off the streets and all military personnel report back to base"

C: Was he in the Navy? What branch was he in?

E: Navy.

C: So he had to go right away?

E: He had to go right away.

C: So were you frantic what had happened to him?

E: I didn't know for about ten days what had happened.

C: And then how long did you remain?

E: I left on Christmas Day.

C: And where did you come back to?

E: I came back to San Francisco. We came in a convoy on big ships that the Government had taken over. And the trip across was about 7-8 days we had planes flying around all the time, looking for subs. And my husband lived right there in San Francisco. We stayed with him for a while.

C: Did you have two children then?

E: My daughter was 10 and my son was 4. And the Navy shipped my car and then I went to San Diego. But, living conditions weren't the same then. It was WAR!!! And finding a nice place to live was harder. Because we had built the house out there, because I'd lived there eight years

C: In San Diego?

E: I loved it. But when we went to Hawaii, we had sold it, which was wrong. And then I came back here.

C: So how long did you stay in San Diego? Did you wait out the War?

E: I'd say December (1941) through July (1942).

C: So when you came back to the Cape, the War was still going on?

E: Oh yes. long time after that. And I rented a house down on Rock Harbor. (Note, what is now Dr Velie's house). I lived there eight years

C: Nice Cape Cod house.

E: SO you went through most of the War and the rationing and that? When you were first married, it was the beginning of the Depression. Because your husband was in the service, do you think that sheltered you a little bit or were you very aware of how horrible things were?

E: Oh, his salary or whatever you may call it was cut. Everything was cut. But, the living was cheap as you know.

C: Well, you say you did well enough that you were able to build a house in San Diego at some point.

E: We built a beautiful home, for \$4000, out on the Pacific Beach. I could see the ocean out the window.

C: During the War, where did Mr Brookshire find himself. Was he in the South Pacific?

E: Oh, he was everywhere.

C: So you must have been a wreck?

E: I never knew where he was.

C: That must have been very difficult.

E: He went from the Pacific to, not Australia, but to the other...

C: New Zealand?

E: New Zealand, and then he came back and he went to Scotland on a training program in amphibian (sic) and they went into Africa. After, he came back a short time while his ship was commissioned in Baltimore, and ended up in the Philippines.

C: So you must have had long separations?

E: Oh my, yes. I wasn't the only one.

C: No, no, I'm sure.

E: We had what we called "Service Wives Clubs" 'cause we were all widows you might say. Sometimes you'd hear, sometimes you'd go months...
C: So you have really treaveled a lot. You've seen a lot of this country?
E: Oh yes. We crossed the country one, two, three times by car.
C: And where was Mr Brookshire originally from? Where did he grow up?
E: He grew up i Fort Worth, Texas.
C: Did he have a Texas accent?
E: Oh yse.
C: So that must have been kind of exotic, unusual?
E: Oh yes. (laughter). Then there was all kinds of his family... several times... I guess my children still have cousins there. I'm sure they do.
END OF SIDE ONE

C: You have a daughter and a son. And your daughter lives in Brewster now?
E: Yes.
C: And what is her married name?
E: Meads.
C: And her first name?
E: Virginia.
C: Were you named for anyone. When your parents chose your first, your middle name? Were you named for anybody?
E: Was I named for anybody?
C: Yes.
E: I was named for my mother's baby sister who died young.
C: Uh-huh.
E: My mother was... her mother died when she was 12 years old, with four little girls. And she said Grandpa Seaver took them out to East Boston to his father's, their grandfather's, and then he boarded them out. And I guess little Ethel died,
C: And your daughter Virginia, was she named for somebody?
E: Not really. Her middle name.
C: I have a sister Virginia, that's why I ask.
E: Her middle name... Virginia Rose. And the "Rose" was a girl I was in training, in nursing, and her name was Rose. And we were close friends. She came from Scotland. We were very good friends. So, I put the "Rose" in the middle.
C: When you came back to Eastham during the War, did you stay for a while or when the War was over did you then get shifted around again?
E: NO, he was about ready to retire. He retired. He lived a while but not long. We built a new home down Barley Neck, and three years after we built it, he died.
C: So he was young?
E: Yes, he was. But I think the War years and everything... and he was a smoker and he had cancer.
C: How old were the children when he died?
E: Well, Virginia was married. Eddie was just starting college. He finished.
C: And then you say you decided to go back into nursing?
E: I did.
C: So you worked here on the Cape?
E: No, first year I went back to my own hospital to sort of brush up. Then I was a resident nurse at a private school. Up in New York.
C: Where in New York? New York City?
E: Dobb's Ferry. Master's School. Very wealthy girls. It didn't make them any better. (laughter). AND I stayed there. It was nice because I could come home summers.

C: SO you kept your house.
E: I kept my house. And, girls kept you young, you know.
C: So you kept the house...
E: Working with young people...
C: Yes. Did you keep the house in Barley Neck for quite a while?
E: I sold the house in Barley Neck and built a smaller house on Uncle Harvey's Wasy.
C: So you became an Orleans person then?
E: Oh yes. Then I sold that and went into Rock Harbor Village and I stayed there for 18 years, 'til all this came up. I'm ready to go back, but my family would raise Caine with me.
C: How long have you been here at Pleasant Bay?
E: Oh, I don't know... I haven't been here two years. But, I've been in the hospital in the last two years for different things. Of course, the most dreadful thing I've had is shingles.
C: THAT's very painful, VERY.
E: Yes, the pain. It's a nerve thing.
C: Yes, it follows a nerve around.
E: Awful.
C: I'm sorry to hear that.
E: The pain is excruciating.
C: Yes, I've known a number of people who've had shingles. That makes me think... do you have memories of doctors or dentists?
E: Yes, ah, Dr Bell in Wellfleet. He used to be our doctor. And Dr M___?
I remember the night when my little brother was born (Note, James Martin Brown, born 07-21-1911). And there I was standing up... I was upstairs, and sometime during the night, standing up, looking out the window, seeing the doctor's car there. AND I thought the doctor brought the baby!!!
C: So he was born then at home, your brother?
E: Oh yes.
C: C: SO (it) was one of those things where you thought the doctor had the baby in the bag and brought him to the house (laughter). You were pretty small, weren't you?
E: Well, I was. I forget how much younger Jim was.
C: Were there five children in your family?
E: I'm the only one left.
C: So Jim was the youngest?
E: Jim was the youngest. My oldest sister (Note, Helen Louise Brown Owens, born 12-17-1900) graduated from Fisher College, in Boston. Fisher.
C: Is she the one who then lived in Cambridge where you met your husband?
E: Yes. She died when she was 34. Jim Owens and his brother, they were little. Very little.
C: Oh, so that's Jim Owens' mom?
E: Yes.
C: Okay, that's the connection 'cause I knew he was a nephew. Was Jim then named for your brother?
E: Yes...no, James is from my grandfather Brown, my father's father.
C: But the name keeps coming down in the family. So your sister died very young.
E: Yes, she did because they didn't have miracle drugs then.
C: Do you have any other nieces and nephews in the area? You've mentioned your sister Becky (Note, Rebecca Clark Brown Howes, born 05-31-08). Did she have children?
E: She had two boys. Everett lives in Eastham. Everett Howes, ... do you know him?
C: I've heard the name.
E: And his wife... and she... And she had a son in Sandwich, and she had

three grandchildren.

C: And you just lost her this Fall, didn't you?

E: On her 90th birthday.

C: Right on her birthday.

E: We knew that she had cancer; the doctors picked it up this kind of tumor she had. And she knew then. She says, "I'll go along as long as I can. And then I'm going to Boston to a cancer specialist". And on her 90th birthday, her two boys gave her a beautiful birthday party. And before her birthday, the grandchildren asked, "Grandma, what do you want for your birthday". "horse and carriage" is all she said. So, there came the birthday party. There were people there and some of us started to leave. And her sons said, "Don't leave yet... the best is yet to come". So then prances this beautiful horse, this beautiful white horse with a cart in back. She was in Orleans then, and she got in the cart with her grandchildren, and rode all around Orleans wishing everyone a Happy Birthday!

C: Oh, what a wonderful thing. And that was her last day?

E: Yes.

C: But what a wonderful present. That's great... Do you remember many of the people in Town that were involved, like the different Selectmen and people like that?

E: Yes. Leslie Chase. I remember him.

C: He was the Tax Collector, wasn't he, and the Town Clerk for a long time

E: I think so.

C: So he must have been over at the Old Town Hall. Art Nickerson has told me a few stories...

E: He might have been in the beginning, but when I remember, he was in the new (Town Hall). And then there's Belle Brackett.

C: Sure, and I_ remember her. She was still around when I... Do you remember the Pennimans at all?

E: Oh yes.

C: Edward Penniman?

E: He was Selectman, I think.

C: Yes, 'cause his name was in the Town Report year after year after year. And you had mentioned... Did your parents regularly go to Town Meetings?

E: Oh, my father wouldn't miss it. I remember one year he insisted my mother vote for a certain person. She didn't want to bother. He insisted she did. So she did and it was her vote that put the person in that he wanted. And I can't remember who it was.

C: Oh, wow, that must have been a big deal when she could first vote because women didn't vote for...

E: Well...

C: But he told her how to vote?

E: Well at that time.

C: So she went along with him then. Do you have many memories of what you thought about, say, President Roosevelt?

E: Oh, yes, I remember all about that.

C: He must have been one of the first you could have voted for, or pretty close to it right?

E: I didn't vote too much; I hated to vote.

C: Have you ever been interested in politics at all?

E: NO, well, yes interested in listening and seeing what's going on, ever still in our lives.

C: So now with our "lovely" president...

E: Yes, uh-huh.

C: You must roll up your eyes at President Clinton when you see how things have changed...

E: President Roosevelt, I think he kept our...well, things were bad you know.

C: During the Depression and the War?

E: And he came to boost it up, you know.

C: So you remember the Fireside Chats that he'd have on the radio, and things like that?

E: oh yes, oh yes.

C: And you say that was good for the morale?

E: Yes. There was no TV.

C: Do you have anything that you really miss about the old days in Eastham?

E: Well, I still love to go down and ride around and talk about it. Two ladies came here around Valentine's Day from the Eastern Star? And they were from Eastham, but I didn't quite get their names. And someone said, it seemed liek the end of the name was "-winkle".

C: Do you remember, or miss in a way. It seems like kids today, with every-thing so sophisticated, with computers and stuff... You must have had really simple ways of entertaining yourself in the evening. Or like sled-ding and just simple things. You must have spent a lot of time with your brothers and sisters.

E: They were just there around Nauset (Rd). There were a certain few children. We'd get together and play around. Played certain things then during the winter...we'd coast and skate and like that.

C: Did you have games or cards or anything?

E: We had games we played. I remember one summer, they... I think it was Leslie Chase who sold ice cream at the Mill. And that was something. And we'd make sure we had some money to go over and get an ice cream cone.

C: So, do you miss the simplicity of things, or?

E: Well, I don't know that I miss it, but I often think of it, you know. I remember... Cavalier Robbins. You've heard of him, haven't you? He lived right next to us on Nauset Rd. He had a beautiful horse, and he was stationed... railroad. He kept the railraod. And once in a while, we'd know he was going over, the train was coming in. So, we'd ask if we could ride over with him. He'd say yes. He had a beautiful horse tied up there. The hrose near the house, and we were afraid of him. Down in the field, a pretty spunky horse.

C: So little things like that were probably very special.

E: Oh yes.

C: Do you remember, or do you notice now, how grown up it's gotten? How big the trees are? The old photographs... it looks more like you had fields rather than forests. It must have been more wide open.

E: It was wide open. Lots of times when we'd go out the mayflowers were blooming, wander through the woods there. Simple things, but we were happy. We didn't know any different.

C: It must have seemed wide open, before all the build-up.

E: Oh yes.

C: So many less houses.

E: You could go anywhere.

C: Was there any house right around where Salt Pond is now... where the Visitor Center is. Did somebody live in that area, where the Visitor Center is now. Do you know if there was a private house in that area?

E: Oh yes... I think that's been torn down.

C: But you have some memory of people living there?

E: Oh yes. The names were Moore and she used to have foster children. It was one of these Cape Cod houses that they built on to.

C: Did you often go to the beach?

E: Oh, we walked down there a lot.

C: And that must have been much more wide open.

E: Well it was. You see, it's washed away. It had peat banks that we could

C: Peat banks? Oh, that's neat. I didn't know that.
E: Way out, way out.
C: You see a little of that now (in Truro).
E: It's all been washed away you see.
C: Did many people go out for shellfish? Do you remember ever going clamming or anything like it?
E: Oh yes, some people did. Some of the men their living.
C: DO you remember trying that as a child? Quohogging, or do you just mostly recall watching people?
E: I don't remember being around the shore, we called it. The fisherman called it the "shore". Mostly the ocean, the bay.
C: Do you remember any of the people who were growing turnips or asparagus. Do you remember any of the big farms at all?
E: Oh yes. The farms... Mr Rich on the hill there; his house has been tron down. He raised asparagus, hens; raised a lot of vegetables, turnips I guess, too. And his children were friends of mine.
C: Did your parents remain in Eastham all their lives, then after they got married and came here?
E: Oh yes.
C: So when they died they were in Eastham?
E: Yes.
C: Are they buried in Eastham?
E: Uh-huh. And I have grandparents buried there in Eastham.
C: You had mentioned something on the 'phone, that you thought there was a connection to Elder Brewster, with your family?
E: Oh yes, we know that.
C: And which side? Would it be your father's side?
E: My father's side.
C: Through his mother? Or through his father?
E: His grandmother, his mother's side not his father. I don't know what his mother's name was. She died young and his grandmother brought him up. His grandmother's name was Rebecca Freeman Mayo. I remember that. And of course there were a lot of Mayos right around there. The Mayo house was right around there on Nauset Rd. And that's gone now. Somebody bought it and had it moved off. To restore it or something like that. And he used to come to the Cape summers, with his grandmother.
C: And that's the one who married Mr Manuel, that you said was from Provincetown?
E: His grandmother, yes.
C: So they had connections to Provincetown as well?
E: Yes.
C: And that went way back?
E: And Grandfather Brown, his ship came ashore off Orleans or Eastham. It was the "Lady Barrett".
C: Lady Barrett?
E: Lady Barrett, and...
C: And that was his grandfather?
E: That was my father's father. My Grandfather Brown.
C: So the ship came ashore and he just didn't leave and he made connection?
E: I don't know.
C: That's interesting.
E: I think I could look that up because Quinn there, you know (who) writes all this, has history of all the wrecks.
C: You probably heard that they recently moved the old Nettie Knowles' House. They moved that a couple of weeks ago.
E: Oh, did they?
C: Yes; it was one of the Quinns that saved it. Someone was going to tear it down and they moved it off. They moved it down off. Way back in

off Gov Prence Rd, about a mile from... It was great; they shut the highway down and turned the electricity off. It was about two or three weeks ago. And they're going to re-do it, which is wonderful.

E: Oh, I don't get the paper now.

C: I saved something. It's wonderful because you hate to see something like that, that has so much history... But, I take it you said that the children in your family were born at home; they weren't born at the Nettie Knowles House.

E: My daughter was born in New Jersey.

C: You told me on the 'phone that you still can't get over the fact that (your granddaughter) Sarah lives in Sam Brackett's house.

E: When I found out she was going into an apartment... I tell you, Sarah's husband... The man who owns Sam Brackett's store, he's a friend of Sarah's husband's father and I think he thought the apartment would help.....? From what I hear, it's a pretty good apartment.

C: It's a nice building.

E: And Sarah said, "Do you suppose it's haunted"?

C: Sam comes back to visit? (laughter)

E: She came in Sunday; by the way, they are expecting and she told me she's going to have a baby.

C: Oh wonderful, oh wonderful.

E: They're building a new house.

C: I love it. Really, when you told me how exciting it was that she's living in Sam Brackett's store, it sort of ties it all together.

E: Yeah.

C: It's like the generations go on.

E: That's it; that's it.

C: That's really neat.

E: She said they went into the home there (the attic) and there was some sort of a room, where you put dresses (o) and she said, "I thought it was a ghost".

C: Oh yes. Oh, that's exciting though. Congratulations. That'll be wonderful. I'm trying to think if I have anything else to ask you. I may think of something. The stories you've had are great and I really appreciate it. I'll stop this now.